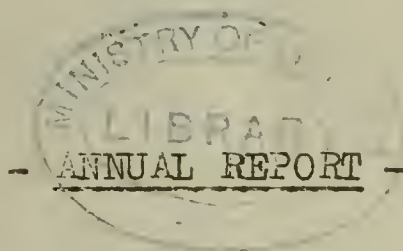


HEALTH
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LIBRARY

- BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL -



of the

- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

for 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1950.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2,392,394
Population (Census 1931)	3,599
Registrar-General's Estimate of population mid 1950	3,144
No. of Uninhabited Houses (at the end of 1950)	1,018
Rateable Value	£12,768
Sum represented by a penny rate	£53-4-0.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live } Legitimate	50	22	28
Births } Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>51</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population
mid 1950:-

Crude	16.2
Adjusted	16.4

Stillbirths	1	-	1
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Birth rate per 1,000 (live & still) births - 19.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Deaths	42	18	24
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid 1950 -			
Crude	13.4		
Adjusted	12.9		

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth & abortion - Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live & still)
births - Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	39
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Neo-natal mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	2
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	39.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-
Cancer of Stomach	1	1
Cancer of Breast	-	-
Cancer of other Sites	5	2
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system	-	3
Coronary disease angina	2	-
Hypertension with Heart disease	-	1
Other Heart Diseases	5	8
Other circulatory disease	1	1
Influenza	1	-
Bronchitis	1	-
Other disease of respiratory system	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined disease	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>18</u>	<u>24</u>

Note:- There were nine transferable deaths,
which are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 34 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year compared with 20 in the previous year. 19 of these cases were Measles, and 11 Whooping Cough.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health, and the children from the Blackrod District receive treatment at Westhoughton. Special transport is provided pending the provision of a clinic in Blackrod.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED

Age Periods - Years.

	Total cases all ages	0- 1-	1- 3-	3- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 25-	25- 45-	45- 65 & over	Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hosp'l
Scarlet Fever	-									-	
Diphtheria	-									-	
Measles	19	1	2	9	7					-	
Whooping Cough	11	1	2	6	1	1				-	
Acute Pneumonia	3				3					-	
Typhoid	1							1		-	
	34	2	4	15	11	1		1		-	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA
(National Assistance Act, 1948)

No applications received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising Midwife in the District, and a Nurse from Westhoughton comes in Blackrod daily

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For Smallpox -- No provision

For Other Infectious Disease - By arrangement with the Divisional Health Office, cases of Infectious Diseases are sent to the nearest Hospital (on the list) that can accept accommodation.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A visiting Nurse is provided by the County

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this District are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary situated at the Cemetery, is sufficient for the needs of the District.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION 1950.

Water Supply

1. At all times during the year an adequate supply of water has been available, and over a considerable period of the year, the reservoir has been overflowing
2. The quality of water has also been satisfactory and 8 Bacteriological samples have been taken at regular intervals for analysis, the results being satisfactory.
3. The use of 'tinned' lead pipes required as a precaution against plumbo solvent action on lead water pipes.
4. Chlorine is used as a sterilising agent and is injected into the water as it enters into the supply mains at the reservoir. This chlorination equipment is in continuous use and the dosage is regulated automatically with the varying rates of flow, leaving a small trace of free chlorine available at the further most parts of the distribution system. This dosage is checked daily with a comparator and adjustments are made as required. The rates of dosage are recorded automatically on a chart which records on weeks dosage.
5. The number of houses which are supplied with water from a piped water supply from public mains, are as follows
 - (a) Direct to Houses - 1,013 - 3,592 persons
 - (b) Standpipes - Nil Nil "

Bulk quantities of water are supplied by Agreement to Adlington U.D.C. and Wigan R.D.C.

The source of supply is from the Council's own Gathering Grounds, and stored in an impounding reservoir. The type of water is Upland Surface Water and Springs.

SEWERAGE

The sewage is disposed of at two main outfalls where the sewage is held in retention tanks, when the grosser solid matter settles and the effluent is then passed through distributing pipes and over the land for final filtration before being discharged into the streams.

At the Scot Lane outfall the retention tanks are now insufficient in size to deal with the amount of sewage discharged in this Works, with the result that solid matters are passed through the tanks and into the Distribution System, which on occasions results in choking up the pipes. A scheme for the improvement of this works is now in the course of preparation.

The main butfall works at Nightingale Farm which received sewage from the higher parts of the District has a tendency to flood on one section of the land during prolonged periods of heavy rain. An increase in the Distribution pipes in this area is required.

FOOD

Frequent inspections are made at Shops and Food preparing premises and the Council have recently adopted the New Model Bye-Laws dealing with the handling, preparation, and storage of food for sale. At all shops Employees and Employers have been advised of steps which should be taken to make their premises and Staff comply with the requirements of these Bye-Laws.

All carcass mear is supplied in this area by the Ministry of Food, and all animals being slaughtered in another District. One Licensed Slaughter House is used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs for private consumers, under the pig rearing scheme. The carcasses of these animals are inspected for the Owners, and advised as to their fitness for food.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the District, 7 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and in each case the ice-cream is sold in pre-packed packets or cartons.

8 Samples of milk have been taken from Retailers for Methyline Blue Reduction Test, and 4 samples for T.B. One sample on T.B. test was found to be positive and the Ministry of Agriculture were notified and eventually the infected animal was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

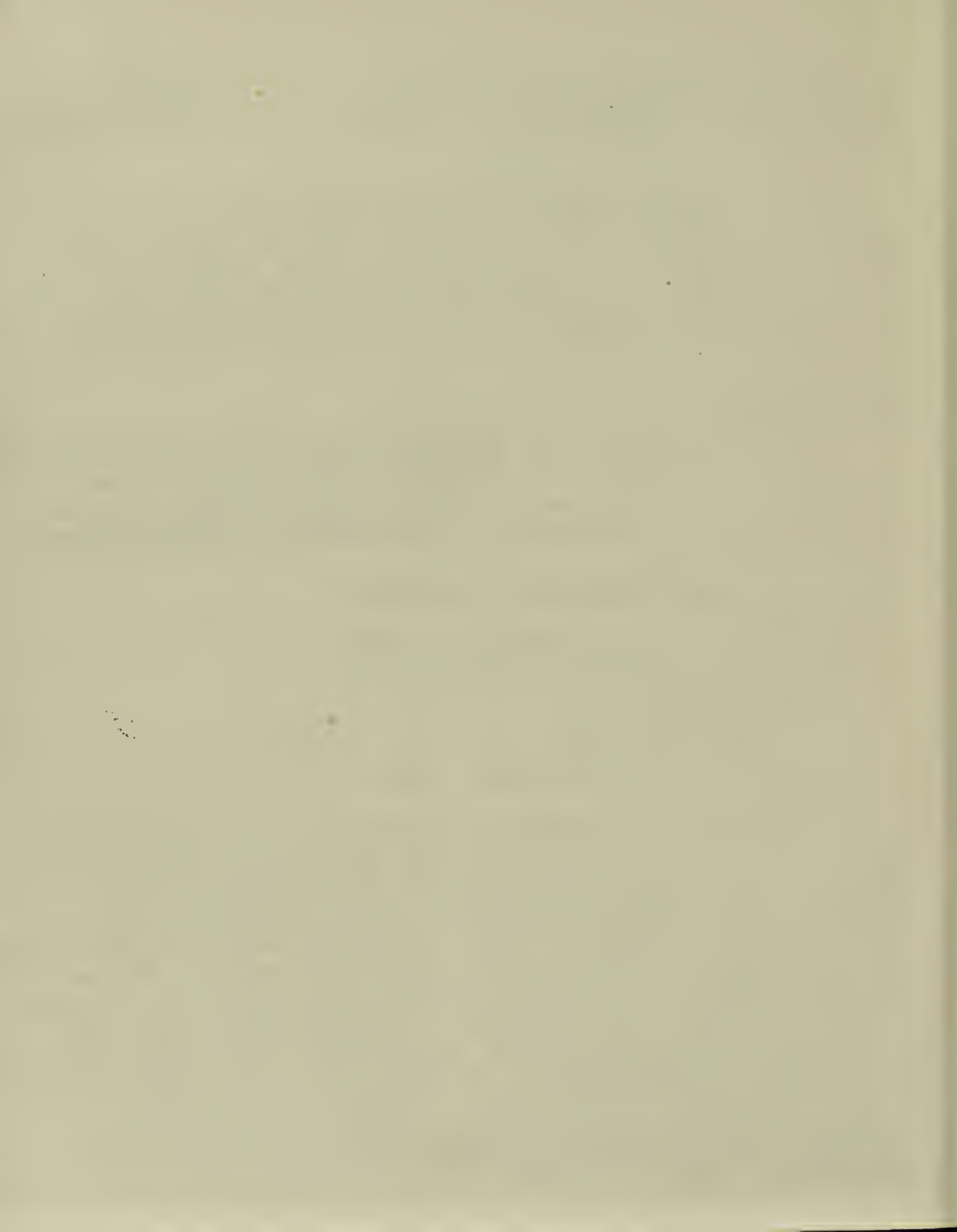
SCAVENGING

Class III Roads and District Roads are scavenged at regular intervals, by the District Council, other classified roads are scavenged by the Lancashire County Council who are the Highway Authority for the District.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

No. of premises visited - 180.
Defects or Nuisances discovered - 50.
Notices served -
 Informal 50
 Statutory 25
Legal proceedings taken - Nil.

In the main, the bulk of complaints and nuisances discovered, are due to defective cottage type properties many of which are old, dilapidated and only for the present acute housing shortage, existing at the present time, quite a number of these cottages would be demolished as unfit houses. The common type of complaint is due to dampness which is usually found in this type of property having no damp proof courses and solid walls with the result that wall plaster is found to be perished and decay is common to timberwork in contact with this dampness. I am of the opinion that the present shortage and inferior quality of fuel being supplied to domestic consumers is further aggravating the condition of this older type house, insofar as they are unable to provide



sufficient heat to maintain their houses in an aired condition. In addition to the above many of the slated roofs require reconditioning, eaves gutters renewing, and ceilings renewing. Interior fittings, such as fire-ranges, cooking facilities, are of obsolete types and great difficulties are experienced by the occupants in keeping these items serviceable.

The present high cost of building material and labour makes the Owners more reluctant to maintain their properties in a good state of repair, particularly the houses which are subject to Rent Control, and in these cases, where difficulties are experienced, informal notices are served by the Sanitary Inspector to be followed by Statutory Notices if the work is not carried out in a reasonable time.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no premises in the District in which any trade scheduled as an offensive trade is carried on.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of domestic refuse is carried out by direct labour. One motor refuse collecting vehicle assisted by a horse and cart when required are employed on this work. Collections are made on a weekly rota but there are occasions when this arrangement cannot be maintained, particularly during the winter period, when the vehicle is used for salting and gritting icy roads etc. Much of the refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused colliery shafts, and the remainder is tipped on land, reclaiming and levelling uneven land for the local farmers. Difficulties are now being experienced with maintenance of dust bins in a satisfactory condition. Owners of controlled rent types of properties are now refusing to supply dust bins, and owing to the present difficulties of deciding who shall provide the bin, whether it be Owner or Occupier, it is considered that the most satisfactory way would be to consider the

provision of Dust Bins by the Local Authority as a charge against the Rate Fund.

SCHOOLS

There are three Junior Schools and one Modern School in the District. The sanitary accommodation is satisfactory at 2 Junior Schools and the Modern School, there being ample flush down type closets, and urinal accommodation for the boys available. At Scot Lane School, the whole sanitary block is unsatisfactory, trough closets being in use, which are in an unsatisfactory condition.

The Management had been recommended over 12 months ago to take steps to recondition the sanitary accommodation provided to this School.

BAKE HOUSES

There is one Retail Bakehouse in the District. Suggestions have been made to the Owner of small improvements which should be made to meet the requirements of the new food handling Bye-Laws.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

No. in District - 9
Bleachworks (Temporarily closed down as Factory - 1)
Weaving Shed - 1.
Clogger & Boot Repairer - 1.
Joiner - 1.

Inspections 9.

CONVENIENCES IN THE DISTRICT

Two Public Conveniences are provided, the accommodation being 1 - 2 stall urinal, 1 W.C. for Men, and 1 W.C. for Women.

Privy Middens - 24

Closets attached to these Middens - 35.

No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) - Nil.

No. of Fresh Water Closets - 966.

No. of Waste Water Closets - Nil

No. of Houses at which movable Ash Bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles. - 5.

3 Privy Middens have been converted and 5 water closets provided.

HOUSES

The Council have under construction 38 houses, 14 of which have been tenanted during the year, and the remainder are in various stages of construction. 2 Private Building Licences have been issued for 2 new houses.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT

The rate of building new houses is very slow, and many families are being forced to live in houses which are unfit for human habitation, and it may well be years before all these families can be satisfactorily accommodated. In the meantime, every effort will be made to maintain this bad property in a wind and weathertight standard, until such times as they can be dealt with.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

M.O.H.

Delton House,
Westhoughton.

18th July, 1951.

